

WATER (POTABLE)

7534

(see exhibit)

(Revised 1996)

Potable water tenders will be signed up as such only if they are currently certified by the State of California or the County of San Bernardino. This requirement should not be confused with potable water "containers" provided by vendors (i.e., portable tanks, water bottles, etc.). The California Department of Health only requires sanitary certification (sticker affixed to the tank) for potable water tenders where tanks are permanently attached to licensed motor vehicles such as trucks and trailers.

It is the policy of CDF to confirm at the incident base that the potable water tender meets the minimum requirements for potable water. Where certification is required, the Logistics Section will confirm minimum requirements using a checklist.

Only water tenders hired as potable and meeting the minimum requirements will be paid the premium rate. The established premium rate will be paid once per calendar day, regardless of the period of hire that day. With the exception of the additional premium pay rate, potable water tenders will be hired under the general guidelines set for water tenders, non-potable.

Checklist to confirm potable water tender status

Health Department seal or sticker affixed to upper left quarter of rear of the hauling tank (California Department of Health Services, Food and Drug Branch).

Test results of bacterial analysis by a private licensed laboratory performed at least once per month during periods of hauling operation must be available on the vehicle. The bacteriological sample must test for coliform and plate count determination.

The \$100 a day bonus for potability will be paid only if the water tender is ordered out as a potable water tender. The \$100 per day will not be prorated for time under hire of less than 8 hours.

If a question arises as to the actual capacity of a water tender, the formulas for computing the gallons are:

Elliptical tank computed in inches:

- width x height x length = gallons of capacity

Rectangle tank computed in inches:

- length x width x height = gallons of capacity

SPECIAL NOTE ON POTABLE WATER: The Department of Health has provided a listing of field and resident offices that may be contacted in your area (see Exhibit 3383.9.1F). The Department of Health (Sacramento) recommends that the agency interested in establishing emergency rental equipment agreements contact the nearest field office as that location maintains the current listing of licensed potable water haulers for that area.

CDF is requiring that potable water tenders, upon arrival at the incident base, be checked for the current Department of Health sticker and a certificate of water sample within the past 30 days. Health regulations require that coliform levels be tested, but acceptable levels were not listed. The Department of Health advises that less than 2.2 is desired but 2.2 is acceptable. On the test certificate, 2.2 will indicate none. Any potable water tender with a test certificate indicating a coliform level above 2.2 is not to be accepted. Water purification systems attached to water tenders are not accepted by the Department of Health as potable water tenders. Currently, no vendor is licensed in California to perform this service.

It has been established that the California Department of Health standards apply to transportation of potable water to CDF incidents.

California Department of Health regulations apply only to hauling potable water. No regulations apply to storage containers once the water has been transferred from a potable water hauler to a portable container.

Upon delivery of potable water to the incident, the water can be either dispensed from the water hauler directly at the incident base to support functions or transferred to a portable water storage container.

As always, the vendor providing potable water "containers" will be responsible for maintaining them in a sanitary condition, but the health certification and sticker is not required.

Potable water containers at an incident base should be rented on an FC-100 utilizing water tender rates without operator, daily rate. Water pressure systems would be paid by a negotiated hourly rate, dry.

As a reminder, hired equipment rental rates are for rental of the water tender. The water tender can be expected to arrive with a full tank. As has been past practice, CDF is responsible for providing a water source.

California Licensed Water Haulers,
New Applicants for Water Haulers License

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Procedures for Obtaining the 1992 Water Hauler License

Purpose of this Program

The Food and Drug Branch's (FDB) water hauler licensing program has been in effect since 1988. The intent of the program is to assure that potable water, as transported and distributed in bulk by vehicles, is protected from all sources of contamination during loading, transport and discharge. Thus, restrictions have been implemented and will be enforced regarding water sources, construction and condition of tanks and associated equipment, uses of the vehicle for other materials, cleaning and sanitation, labeling, licensing and inspection requirements.

This program does not allow the use of construction-quality, fire-fighting vehicles for the transport of potable water for human consumption. It also does not allow the use of potable water trucks for fighting fires, spraying roads, drafting surface waters or for hauling grey waters or other non-food materials. Only properly constructed and fitted vehicles, totally dedicated for potable water for the entire license year should be submitted for inspection. Any tank previously used for hauling petroleum products or other non-food materials must be tested according to the guidelines and the results of the tests must be available at the time of inspection by FDB. If license fees are submitted and the licenses are not issued because of non-compliance, such fees will not be returned; they will be held until a vehicle is presented that complies with the requirements. Several vehicles may be operated under the same license if they have been inspected and have received current stickers.

All reports of using uninspected vehicles; of using vehicles for transporting non-potable water or other unacceptable products; of non-complying equipment or of the addition by the haulers of any substance to potable water will be investigated. Evidence of violations shall be used to initiate administrative actions for denial, suspension or revocation of licenses and/or other civil or criminal sanctions as provided by the California Health and Safety Code.

REMINDERS

- Use of vehicles with detachable tanks will be permitted if they are otherwise in compliance with the guidelines. They must be securely attached to the vehicle at the time of inspection by FDB.
- Use of uncoated galvanized steel for tanks or fittings of new water hauling vehicles is prohibited. Existing hauling tanks constructed of galvanized steel will be prohibited after January 1, 1993, unless a food grade coating has been applied to all water contact surfaces.

- Testing will be required in cases where a vehicle was previously used to haul other than water, or where the prior use of a vehicle was unknown.
- Pumps and valves will be critically examined. Some pumps which may have been allowed in prior years may not meet the current guidelines. All pumps must be disassembled at the time of inspection.
- All vehicles must fill through an air gap or through an approved double-check valve from the attached list.
- The operator log of activities must be maintained on board the vehicle to facilitate inspection by FDB investigators or others. Examples of acceptable formats are attached for your information.
- All vehicles will be photographed at the time a sticker is affixed by FDB investigators to document existing equipment. Equipment later found to be retrofitted, or otherwise not in compliance with the FDB guidelines, will have their stickers removed.
- Licenses and stickers are not transferable. Operators must reapply if ownership of a vehicle changes.
- All changes in address, vehicle identification or equipment must be reported to FDB.
- All Category X vehicles must have a current-year DHS sticker before being placed into operation by a licensed operator.

Licensing Procedures

The license process is initiated by receipt of an application form and license fee at the Food and Drug Branch, Sacramento. All applications must indicate the normal storage locations of the vehicles as the place of business. The mailing address may be a different location. The California vehicle license or vehicle identification number of each vehicle must be written on the application form. Proper phone numbers must be provided to expedite inspection appointments.

Applicants will be required to present their vehicles for inspection at times and locations assigned by the Food and Drug Branch district investigators. Licenses will be issued to applicants for vehicles found to be in compliance. Certification stickers will be attached to acceptable vehicles at the time of inspection. You are invited to call your local FDB District Office to arrange for an inspection.

[\(see exhibit\)](#)

FORMS AND/OR FORMS SAMPLES: RETURN TO ISSUANCE HOME PAGE FOR FORMS/FORMS SAMPLES SITE LINK.

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